

Appl. No. 09/838,782
Reply Filed: August 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: April 8, 2005

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of April 8, 2005, the Applicant submits this Reply. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in this application, of which claims 1, 7 and 10 are independent. Claims 7 and 12 have been amended to address the objection in the Office Action. No fee is due for claims for this amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 and 7-9, of which claims 1 and 7 are independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of U.S. Patent 5,659,793 ("Escobar"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to Escobar, an editing system has a user interface that includes "[t]ime lines 140, 141, 150, 151 and 160 [which] are represented as a plurality of tracks." Col. 6, lines 22-23. "At least two video tracks . . . are preferred." Col. 6, lines 23-24. "At least one interactive object track 160 should be included . . ." Col. 6, lines 26-27. "Separate directories or 'bins' are preferably maintained for video objects, audio objects, text/graphical objects, special effects, program objects and applications." Col. 6, lines 55-58. These assets are stored in "files . . . in industry standard format" such as "open media framework [OMF] format." Col. 7, lines 52-55. Properties for an object in a bin may be specified through a template. See Col. 9, lines 20-45. In the user interface, a "[b]utton 173 invokes application creation or editing functions which permit objects to be assembled into applications with relative timing specified by their placement along the timeline tracks." Col. 6, 37-40. A "[b]utton 172 invokes the editing of objects to permit changes in their properties such as duration." Col. 6, lines 36-37. A "[b]utton 171 . . . permits creation of placeholder objects." Col. 6, lines 32 and 35-36. An asset may have an associated time code that "allows an edit point to be defined as a certain duration from a clearly delineated starting point for asset playback." Col. 8, lines 16-18. Thus, "portions of an asset . . . can be specified in terms of starting and ending time or starting time and duration." Col. 8, lines 19-21.

Regarding claim 1, in the Office Action, it is asserted that Escobar teaches the claimed "means for allowing a user to place interactive content on the at least one interactive track according to a selection of whether the interactive content is associated with either a point in

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time with a locator object or a duration with a source clip object on the at least one interactive track." The Office Action compares this limitation to Escobar, col. 8, lines 15-21 and col. 6, lines 30-41, noted above. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In the excerpts referenced by the Office Action, Escobar teaches that an interactive object has a duration, specified by a starting time and a duration or by starting and ending times. These portions of Escobar do not teach a system in which a user can make a selection resulting in interactive content being associated with a locator object, which is specified by a point in time.

Accordingly the rejection of claim 1 is traversed.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite a "means for allowing a user to edit placement of the interactive content on the at least one interactive track" and that the means for updating information about the interactive content in the bin using the unique reference, updates this information "in response to editing of the placement of the interactive content on the at least one interactive track."

In contrast Escobar permits an object's properties to be edited through a properties template which is invoked by selecting the object in the bin. Escobar does not teach that these properties are updated when the placement of the object on the timeline is edited.

Thus, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 7 is traversed. The remaining claims 2-5 and 8-9 are dependent claims that are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6 and 10-12, of which claim 10 is independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Escobar and U.S. Patent 6,195,497 ("Nagasaka"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Escobar is discussed above.

According to Nagasaka, a "motion picture can be expressed as a whole by a three-dimensional space comprising an x-y plane forming the frame image and the axis of the time t, and the appearing period and the appearing position of the subject can be regarded as its partial space." Col. 7, lines 39-43. Thus, Nagasaka is understood as teaching that a subject in a video is indexed by indicating where the subject appears in this x-y-t space.

In the Office Action, it is asserted that this portion of Nagasaka teaches "a specification of size and position of the video". Applicant respectfully disagrees. This portion of Nagasaka

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teaches that a subject in video is indexed by its position within a frame (x,y) and its position in time (t) within the video. In contrast, the claim recites that the size and position *of the video* is specified, not the size and position of the subject matter within the video.

The Office Action also asserts that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Escobar and Nagasaka because it would provide "Escobar the benefit of enabling a user to freely and easily make associated video retrievals from index information". The Office Action cites no evidence in support of this reason, contrary to the requirements of *In re Lee*, 61 USPQ2d 1430, 1433 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

Accordingly, the rejection is traversed because a. Nagasaka does not teach the claim limitations, and b. the Office Action does not provide the required evidence to support the reason for making the combination proposed in the Office Action.

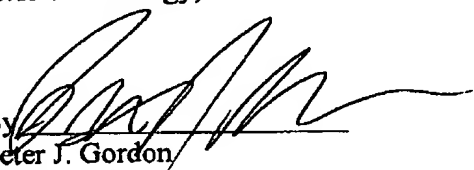
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to **Deposit Account No. 50-0876**.

Respectfully submitted,

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